indulgence—and even if they did, we could scarcely afford, within a reasonable space, any thing more than a very general view of the manner in which the author has fulfilled his task.

Without admitting that all the opinions he has emitted in relation to the structure and functions of the nervous system are incontrovertible—his work may, nevertheless, with great confidence, be recommended to the particular attention of the student of this important portion of physiology. He has unquestionably collected and collated with great industry, and in general with the most perfect impartiality, every thing of importance in relation to it, while he has arranged his materials in a manner well adapted to communicate clear and distinct views upon each of the topics embraced in the general subject of which he treats.

Some very beautiful and interesting lithographic plates accompany the work —illustrative of the form and structure of the brain and spinal marrow, the form and relation of their several parts and the mode of origin, &c. of the different sets of nerves. D. F. C.

Art. X.—*Traité complet de l'Anatomie, de la Physiologie, et de la Pathologie du Système Nerveux Cérébro-spinal.* Par. M. Foville, Medicin en chef de la Maison Royale de la Charenton, &c. &c. Premiere parte. Anatomie—avec un atlas de xxiii planches. 8vo. pp. 676. Paris, 1844.

A complete Treatise on the Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology of the Cerebro-spinal Nervous System. By M. Foville, Physician in Chief to La Maison Royale de la Charenton, &c. &c. Part 1st. Anatomy—with a quarto atlas containing 23 lithographic plates.

It is only within a very few years past, that any thing like correct views in relation to the structure and arrangement of the different portions of the nervous system have been fully developed. Notwithstanding the nervous centres, and principal nervous trunks have been made the subjects of repeated and laborious investigation, from a very early period, and by the most skilful anatomists and physiologists—but slight advances were made, until lately, towards a knowledge of their intimate structure. The attention of the investigator, with few exceptions, was almost exclusively confined to the form and superficial appearances of the brain and spinal cord, and to the general distribution of the principal nervous cords, which have unquestionably been described by the older anatomists with great minuteness and accuracy.

A few of the earlier anatomists made, it is true, considerable advances towards determining the arrangement and course of the nervous fibres in the spinal marrow and brain—and had the important facts developed by them been followed up with industry and care, the discovery of the real structure of the nervous masses, and of the functions of their different parts, as well as of the several classes of nerves which pass to and from them, would certainly not have been left to the anatomists of the nineteenth century.

A careful study of the works of Varolius, Sylvius, Willis, Malpighi, Bartholin, and several of their contemporaries of less note, will show how many of the views in regard to the intimate structure and composition of the brain and spinal cord, usually referred to as the results of recent investigation, were, in fact, fully anticipated by the labours of the anatomists just named—Labours, that in consequence of their true value either not being fully appreciated, or intentionally overlooked, by succeeding cultivators of the same field, were for a time forgotten, and have now only been recalled, after their importance had been very satisfactorily established by minute and repeated examinations of the nervous centres,—undertaken, in many instances, evidently without the slightest knowledge that the same work had already been performed.

It is to the labours of Gall and Spurzheim, that we are mainly indebted for the renewed attention that has been paid during a few years past, to the study of the anatomy, and physiology of the cerebro-spinal nervous system, and for the very rapid advances that have, in consequence, been made, in perfecting our knowledge of this important and truly interesting portion of the animal organism. They have indicated with great clearness, the true principles upon which the investigation of its intimate arrangement and composition was to be successfully conducted; while, by their writings and oral instructions, as well as by the novelty and ingenuity of many of their doctrines, they have given an impulse to the more minute and accurate study of every portion of the nervous apparatus, which has already been productive of the most important results—and of the ultimate fruits of which we can form no correct anticipation.

The renewed interest with which the anatomy and physiology of the cerebro-spinal masses have become invested, has, as might have been expected, given birth to numerous publications, of more or less value, in relation to the subject. Among these, the treatise of M. Foville will unquestionably command a very high rank. The author has devoted many years to the investigation of the structure and functions of the nervous system, and under circumstances peculiarly favourable to arriving at positive and accurate results.

The volume before us, which forms the first part of what is intended to be a complete and extended treatise on the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the cerebro-spinal system in man, furnishes a minute description—founded on the personal observations of the author and his friends—carefully compared with those of his predecessors and contemporaries in the same field of inquiry—of the form, arrangement and superficial appearance of the several portions of the encephalic and spinal nervous masses—as well as of their intimate structure and arrangement—of the course, arrangement and connection of the nervous fibres which enter into their composition, and the relation which exists between the several portions of the nervous centres and the nerves which proceed to or pass from them. Together with a full account of the cranio-spinal osseous envelope of the central nervous masses—more especially directed to establish the precise relation which the different portions of the brain bears to the several external regions of the skull—as well as to point out more clearly the serious evils that result from every species of confinement or compression to which the head may be accidentally or intentionally subjected in early infancy.

To the treatise is prefixed a very full and peculiarly interesting sketch of the various opinions that have been entertained by the more distinguished anatomists and physiologists from the earliest periods in relation to the different portions of the nervous system—embracing a succinct analysis of the principal publications that have appeared upon the subject. This historical introduction, which is ably and fairly drawn up, presents an instructive and satisfactory view of the gradual steps by which the knowledge of the true structure of the nervous centres has been attained, while it proves, also, the little claims to originality possessed by many of the views that have been developed by the labours of the more recent investigators.

Every part of the work bears unquestionable marks of close observation and of perfect accuracy in all the more important details—while the drawings by which the descriptions of the author are illustrated, surpass in truth, clearness, and beauty of execution any of a similar character with which we are familiar.

The anatomical description of the cerebro-spinal masses by M. Foville, we may remark, in conclusion, possesses a character and importance which will render its careful study essential on the part of all who would become fully acquainted with the *structure* as preliminary to the study of the *functions* of the nervous apparatus.

D. F. C.